GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:544
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2005
REVIEW OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families living Below Poverty Line (BPL) in the country at present and the number of families out of them belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has set the target for uplifting all such families by 2009;

(c) if so, the number of families targeted to be brought Above Poverty Line (APL) every year till 2009;

(d) whether any review of implementation of various poverty alleviation programmes has been made during the last and current Five Year Plans;

(e) if so, the details of success achieved in this regard, State-wise;

(f) whether the Government propose to spend more funds under these programmes during the current Plan, particularly in backward States; and

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith new schemes to be taken up for uplifting the poors?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL)

(a) to (c) Based on the information furnished by the Planning Commission, the estimates of poverty at national and State level are made from the large sample survey on `Household Consumption Expenditure` conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years and these estimates of poverty are done for persons and not families. According to the latest such survey conducted in 1999-2000 (55th Round), the State-wise data on the percentage and number of persons living below the poverty line at all India level and the percentage of SC/ST population living below the poverty line is given at Annexure-I and Annexure-II.

At the All India level, the Tenth Plan document has projected that the proportion of people living below poverty line is expected to decline to 19.3% by 2006-07, as compared to 26.1% in 1999-2000.

(d) to (g) The review of implementation of various poverty alleviation Programmes is undertaken by the Ministry constantly through a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation mechanism . The outcome of these reviews is utilized for necessary policy interventions at different levels. The Planning Commission also undertakes the review of these programmes from time to time. The present self employment programme i.e. Sawaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and wage employment programme i.e. Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) were restructured on the basis of the outcome of such reviews.

The increased allocation of Rs.76,774.00 crore has been made for the rural development and poverty alleviation programmes for the Xth Plan as compared to IXth Plan allocation of Rs. 42873.80 crore. Besides the increased allocation a new programme i.e. National Food For Work Programme (NFFWP) was launched during 2004-05 in 150 most backward districts of the country with the objective to supplement the efforts to generate more wage employment opportunities in these areas. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 has also been passed under which a National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme will be implemented in 200 districts (including 150 NFFWP districts). The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act provides livelihood security for the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.